

June 6, 1861.

The Annual Meeting for the Election of Fellows was held this day.

GENERAL SABINE, R.A., Treasurer and Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the President, intimating that, on account of the condition of his eyesight, he felt it to be his duty to decline being put in nomination for the Presidency at the next Anniversary.

The Statutes relating to the Election of Fellows having been read, Sir George Back and Mr. E. W. Brayley were, with the consent of the Society, nominated Scrutators to assist the Secretaries in examining the Lists.

The votes of the Fellows present having been collected, the following gentlemen were declared duly elected into the Society :—

Charles Spence Bate, Esq.
Heinrich Debus, Esq.
Campbell de Morgan, Esq.
Thomas A. Hirst, Esq.
A. Matthiessen, Esq.
J. Clerk Maxwell, M.A.
Ferdinand Müller, M.D.
William Newmarch, Esq.

Edmund Alexander Parkes, M.D.
William Pole, Esq.
Philip Lutley Sclater, M.A.
Charles F. A. Shadwell, Capt. R.N.
Henry J. Stephen Smith, M.A.
William Stokes, M.D.
George Johnstone Stoney, M.A.

June 13, 1861.

THOMAS GRAHAM, Esq., Master of the Mint, V.P., in the Chair.

Mr. John Allan Broun, Dr. Augustus Matthiessen, and Mr. William Newmarch, were admitted into the Society.

The following communications were read :—

- I. "Notice of Recent Scientific Researches carried on Abroad."
By the FOREIGN SECRETARY.

Through M. Haidinger my attention has been called to the im-

portant labours of Professor Kolenati and Professor Oscar Schmidt, in Natural History, and to those of M. Albrecht Schrauf in Physics.

Dr. Friedrich Anton Kolenati, Professor of Natural History in the Polytechnicum of Brünn in Moravia, and Founder of the Bohemian Natural History Society 'Lotos,' is the author of upwards of 100 memoirs on various departments of Natural History, Geology, Mineralogy, and Crystallography, containing descriptions of nearly 400 species discovered by himself. The limits of this notice forbid the recital of the titles of these memoirs, or of the names of the species therein described. Some of Professor Kolenati's principal works are:—

Meletemata Entomologica, containing a description of the insects discovered by the author during a journey in the Caucasus and Transcaucasian provinces of Russia in the years 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846. Also various Memoirs on Chiroptera, Arachnida, and Insects, published independently or in the *Sitzungsberichte der Wiener Akademie*, *Lotos*, and the *Mémoires de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou*, 1861.

Dr. Oscar Schmidt, Professor of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at Gratz, is the author of the following memoirs:—

1. *Die rhabdocoelen Strudelwürmer des süßsen Wassers.* Jena.
2. *Neue Beiträge zur Naturgeschichte der Würmer, gesammelt auf einer Reise nach den Färöer.* Jena.
3. *Neue Rhabdocoelen aus dem nordischen und dem adriatischen Meere.* *Sitzungsberichte der Wiener Akademie.* Band IX.
4. *Zur Kenntniss der Turbellaria rhabdocoela, &c. des Mittelmeeres.* *Sitzungsberichte der Wiener Akademie.* Band XXIII.
5. *Die rhabdocoelen Strudelwürmer aus den Umgebungen von Krakau.* *Denkschriften der Wiener Akademie.* Band XV.
6. *Die dendrocoelen Strudelwürmer aus den Umgebungen von Gratz.* *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie.* Leipzig. Band X.
7. *Untersuchungen über Turbellarien von Corfu und Cephalonien.* *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie.* Leipzig. Band XI.
8. *Ueber Planaria torva Autorum.* *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie.* Leipzig. Band XI.

The first five memoirs are devoted only to the arrangement of worms, Class "Turbellaria," which Ehrenberg named "Rhabdocoela." Subsequently the investigations are extended to the "Dendrocoela."

In No. 1 the general anatomico-physiological relations of the order are for the first time established with scientific precision, and a series of species are described accordingly. In No. 2 a very remarkable deviation of the genus *Dinophilus* is described. No. 3 contains the description of seventeen Rhabdoceles, which are all new with the exception of *Convoluta paradoxa*. In No. 4 are described nine species of Rhabdoceles from the Mediterranean, mostly from the Bay of Naples, together with some other worms. No. 5 contains the list and special description of twenty species, of which ten are new, observed in the neighbourhood of Cracow. The anatomical descriptions embrace almost all the principal genera: *Vortex*, *Dero-stomum*, *Mesostomum*, *Prostomum*. Nos. 6, 7, 8 contain researches respecting Turbellaria dendrocoela. The author has described most of the freshwater species existing in Germany, and some from Corfu.

Professor Schmidt's investigations extend to eighty species of the Turbellaria rhabdoceala, and dendrocoela, sixty-two of which were discovered by himself.

Since Quatrefages published his 'Mémoire sur les Planaries,' 1847, and Dalyell published his observations on various orders of Turbellariæ ('The Powers of the Creator,' 1851, 1853), nothing has been done either in France or England to improve the anatomical knowledge of this very attractive group. Professor Schmidt declares that he will consider it a reward for his own labours if English zoologists can be induced by means of this notice to turn their attention to the Fauna to which it refers.

The following notice of his researches has been furnished to the Foreign Secretary by M. Schrauf.

Determination of the Optical Constants of Crystallized Substances. (First and Second Series.) By ALBERT SCHRAUF (Vienna).

In the two hitherto published series of these investigations, the data concerning the refractive and dispersive powers of twenty crystallized substances are communicated.

Being persuaded that crystallo-physics, more than any other branch of physical science, is founded on quantitative calculation of absolute exactitude, I contrived to obtain first incontestable facts